49. A computer system comprising:

a plurality of hand-held objects, an object of said plurality of hand-held objects having a unique visual aspect;

a substantially horizontal surface including at least a section capable of supporting said plurality of hand-held objects, said section having no predefined positions for supporting said plurality of hand-held objects;

a detecting element proximate to at least said section of said surface;

a first processor linked to said sensing element;

a personal computer, including:

a loading device for loading executable code into said personal computer from an outside source;

a storage device for storing the executable code,

a second processor for processing at least the executable code, and

an output device for presenting a user interface;

a component within said hand-held object capable of affecting an electrical change in a portion of said detecting element;

at least one of said first and second processors being capable of identifying at least one of: (a) said visual aspect of said hand-held object based on said electrical change, and (b) a position of said hand-held object on said surface based on a position of said portion of said detecting element.

50. (Once Amended) A computer system [for interacting with a computer] as recited in claim 49, wherein said detecting element comprises a wire grid.

51. (Once Amended) A computer system [for interacting with a computer] as recited in claim 49, wherein said detecting element comprises a plurality of electrically conductive wires.

52. A computer system comprising:

a plurality of hand-held objects, an object of said plurality of hand-held objects having a unique visual aspect and a component exhibiting a characteristic representing said visual aspect;

a substantially horizontal surface including at least a section capable of supporting said plurality of hand-held objects, said section having no predefined positions for supporting said plurality of hand-held objects;

a detecting element provided proximate to at least said section of said surface, a portion of said detecting element being capable of detecting said characteristic of said component;

a processor linked to said detecting element, said processor being capable of identifying at least one of: (a) said visual aspect of said hand-held object based on said detected characteristic, and (b) a position of said hand-held object on said surface based on a position of said portion of said detecting element.

53. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises an alphanumeric character.

54. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a picture.

55. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a symbol.

56. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a color.

57. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein said ~~detector~~ detecting element is capable of detecting a position of said hand-held object by triangulation.

58. (New) ~~A~~ computer system as recited in claim 49, wherein the computer system is capable of communicating with a personal computer via a communication link.

59. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 58, wherein said communication link is a wireless communication link.

60. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said detecting element comprises a wire grid.

61. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said detecting element comprises a plurality of electrically conductive wires.

62. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises an alphanumeric character.

63. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a picture.

64. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a symbol.

65. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said unique visual aspect comprises a color.

66. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said processor comprises a central processing unit of a personal computer.

67. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein the computer system is capable of communicating with a personal computer via a communication link.

68. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 67, wherein said communication link is a wireless communication link.

69. (New) A computer system as recited in claim 52, wherein said ~~detector~~ detecting element is capable of detecting a position of said hand-held object by triangulation.